

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 canceled.

15. (currently amended) A purified protein characterized in its natural state by a membrane-bound islet cell location, a molecular weight of 38 kD as measured by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, a broad band on an SDS polyacrylamide gel indicative of heterogeneity in size and/or charge, an amphiphilic charge, and a pI in the range from 5.4 to 6.1, which protein that specifically binds to autoantibodies present in a subgroup of prediabetic individuals and diabetic individuals at the clinical onset of disease.